



RCMP O DIVISION CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM

Border Integrity Open Source Results for 2022-02-20, 1000 hours

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AIM

To provide RCMP O Division with passive open source information identified on 2022-02-20 by 1000 hours, pertaining to the ongoing protests known as the "Freedom Convoy" at or near Ontario land and air ports of entry (POE).

KEY FINDINGS

- Protesters who were turned back before reaching the Peace Bridge yesterday may still be in the nearby area and could attempt to reach another Niagara region POE today. Police are reportedly controlling access ramps in the area.
- Yesterday in the Kingston area, a group of 30-40 vehicles formed a convoy through the nearby roadways. A few counter-protesters attempted to block their access leading to minor confrontations. There is no indication of another attempt at a convoy today; however, given the large size of the group (reportedly 419), it remains a possibility.
- A post was made in the Sarnia Convoy for Freedom 2022 Facebook group requesting people to protest at City Hall.

NIAGARA REGION

Peace Bridge

The most recent social media and news reports state that a convoy of vehicles planned to assemble along the Niagara River-Parkway on Saturday 2022-02-19; however, police thwarted a gathering at the Peace Bridge.ⁱ Also yesterday, Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) tweeted a warning for potential protesters that it is illegal to prevent or block access to critical infrastructure under the Emergency Act.ⁱⁱ

The last update of the convoy group was that they had regrouped in Jordan, ON (west of St. Catharines).ⁱⁱⁱ Given they are still part of a convoy, the group may attempt to attend the Peace Bridge today. OPP and NRPS have blocked/controlled access to on and off ramps around the Niagara POEs. The only delays/lane restrictions announced by police in the region, as of writing time, are due to construction.

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Social media user **Personal Info.** posted on the 'Freedom Convoy Fort Erie Border 2022' Facebook group about organizing a freedom ride, slow rolling through Chippewa, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, and Welland. They would pass by MP offices and City Halls and honk (Figure 1). At the time of this report, the post had gathered 18 reactions and 14 comments. Some commenters mocked the idea or recommended doing it when MPs are back in their offices and not on a long weekend.^{iv}

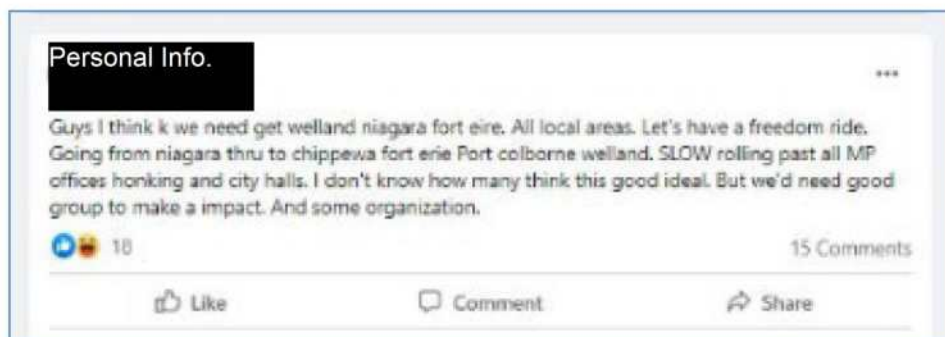


Figure 1: Screenshot of the 2022-02-19 public post for the Facebook group

Personal Info.

Rainbow/Whirlpool/Queenston-Lewiston Bridge

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

KINGSTON

There are reports on social media that counter-protesters were in Kingston (as well as other POEs) yesterday to block convoys destined for the border (Figure 2).^v Some trucks blocked the roads leading to the POE, escalating to minor confrontations.^{vi} Police were observed in the background of the videos monitoring the developments on site. No major traffic disruptions were noted and no publicly available information suggests any actions are planned for today.



Figure 2: Confrontations after trucks were blocked by counter-protesters on the roads leading to the POE

Further research into the group 'Peterborough Freedom Rally Convoy'^{vii} identifies the organizers as **Personal Info.** (Figure 3); **Personal** is believed to be **Personal Info.** The group has 442 members. A Facebook group comment wishes members enjoy spending time with family during the Family Day weekend, with no indications of further protests in the coming days.



Figure 3: Facebook group address posted as comment on 2022-02-19

CORNWALL

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

WINDSOR

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

SARNIA

Personal Info. posted in the 'Sarnia Convoy for Freedom 2022' Facebook group requesting people to protest at City Hall. **Personal** posted that they need to make a stand at City Hall day in and day out and requests that it be non-violent (Figure 4).^{ix} No date or time was suggested for the protest and it appears that **Personal** would like to see people to continuously protest at City Hall. There is minimal online support to this protest so far. There is no indication that this protest would affect the Sarnia border at Blue Water Bridge.



Figure 4: Facebook post - Sarnia City Hall

SAULT STE. MARIE

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – YOW

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

¹ Facebook User ID: 1157569369.

TORONTO PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – YYZ

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

With the fluidity and ever evolving situations at or near the POEs, continued live query support of open source media is warranted in order to provide updated situational awareness for RCMP O Division and partner agencies.

LIMITATIONS

Although every effort has been made to review all publicly visible social media and web sources for information relevant to this brief, the absence of threat information herein should not be taken as an exhaustive examination of potential threats. A large volume of information is available online and constantly evolving.

DISSEMINATION

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O Division Border Integrity Detachments
OPP Project HENDON

ⁱ [U] "Police thwart protesters efforts in Fort Erie", posted 2022-02-19 by NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW, <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news/niagara-region/2022/02/19/police-thwart-protesters-efforts-in-fort-erie.html>. Accessed 2022-02-20.

ⁱⁱ [U] Twitter account @NiagRegPolice. Accessed 2022-02-20.

ⁱⁱⁱ [U] Twitter account @NOTLfish. Accessed 2022-02-20.

^{iv} [U] Facebook group 'FREEDOM CONVOY FORT ERIE BORDER 2022', <https://www.facebook.com/Personal Info.>. Accessed 2022-02-20.

^v [U] Twitter accounts **Personal Info.**, @Eatsfood2. Accessed 2022-02-20.

^{vi} [U] Twitter account @ItsMe_Context. Accessed 2022-02-20.

^{vii} [U] Facebook group 'Peterborough Freedom Rally Convoy,' <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251675967147808/>. Accessed 2022-02-20.

Personal Info. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251675967147808/user/100055407774083/>. Accessed 2022-02-20.

^{ix} [U] Facebook group 'Sarnia Convoy for Freedom 2022,' www.facebook.com/groups/249532047331187. Accessed 2022-02-20.